

920522-905338

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**In the application of :** Wilmert De Bosscher  
**Serial No. :** 09/720,744  
**Filed :** June 11, 2001  
**For :** Vacuum Tight Coupling For Tube Sections  
**Examiner :** Dunwoody, Aaron M.  
**Art Unit :** 3679  
**Customer number :** 23644

**PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

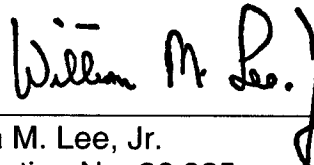
In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.136, the applicant hereby petitions for an extension of time of one month to respond to the Office Action mailed February 28, 2006.

Response will therefore be timely if filed with the Patent and Trademark Office no later than June 28, 2006.

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.17, the required further fee of \$120 should be deducted from Deposit Account No. 12-0913.

June 19, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William M. Lee, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

---

William M. Lee, Jr.  
Registration No. 26,935  
Barnes & Thornburg LLP  
P.O. Box 2786  
Chicago IL 60690-2786  
(312) 214-4800  
Fax (312) 759-5646